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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to gain enough familiarity with developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies to be able to advise the information service community on what can be applied today and what one might reasonably expect to be applicable to library and information services in the near future. The emphasis is on systems that are actually operational now--systems that have been incorporated into an everyday working situation rather than those that are at experimental or prototype stages. In assessing the relevance of technologies, particular attention was paid to applicability in a digital library environment. Potentially relevant applications outside the library field are also dealt with in greater detail. In preparing the report, the authors surveyed the complete spectrum of applications of the technologies under consideration, with the exception of the enormous field of computer-based education. The book is divided into six parts: (1) Introduction, which outlines the purposes of the study and the methods used; (2) a survey of the applications of the target technologies in library and information service environments; (3) applications from other fields that are closely related to library applications or directly relevant to information processing operations; (4) a survey of applications in other fields that may have applicability, in some form, to libraries and other information services; (5) general technologies implying artificial intelligence; and (6) conclusions and implications. Eleven figures are provided. Sample letters, author questionnaire, sources for keeping current with new developments in advanced technologies and criteria for deciding when an expert system approach may be justified are appended. Includes an index. (Contains 547 references.) (AEF)